

Message Text

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47

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

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S E C R E T PONTA DELGADA 045

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

REF: PONTA DELGADA 6

1. CONOFFS RECENTLY DISCUSSED SUBJECT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE WITH NUNO CAMARA (REFTEL) AND JOSE ALMEIDA, AZOREAN BORN FORMER DEPUTY TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM VAINADO CASTELO DISTRICT. MAIN POINTS CONVERSATION FOLLOW.
2. BOTH FEEL PORTUGAL HEADED TOWARD COMMUNIST DOMINATION BUT BELIEVE AZORES SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT REGARDLESS. OUTBREAK OF CIVIL WAR ON CONTINENT WILL BE SIGNAL FOR ACTION BUT IF NO CIVIL WAR OCCURS, AS CAMARA BELIEVES, DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE ACTION WILL BE SET BY HIS GROUP.
3. BOTH CONVINCED VIRTUALLY ALL AZOREANS FAVOR INDEPENDENCE FROM CONTINENT WHICH HAS EXPLOITED AND NEGLECTED ISLANDS. ALMEIDA STATED THAT GROUP OR MOVEMENT INCLUDES ELEMENTS OF ALL CLASSES AND THAT RIVALRIES AMONG ISLANDS WERE ARTIFICIAL CREATION OF CONTINENTALS TO KEEP AZOREANS DIVIDED, WHICH WOULD NOT BE OBSTACLE TO INDEPENDENCE.

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RM BOTH STATED THAT MANY ELEMENTS OF MOVEMENT WERE URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION WHICH APPARENTLY WOULD TAKE FORM OF TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROPERTY (NOT PERSONS) OF CONTINENTALS. THEY WOULD PREFER TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT OF US BEFORE TAKING ANY KIND OF ACTIONS SO AS TO ASSURE ADHERENCE OF RURAL MASSES WHO ARE STRONGLY PRO AMERICAN. SUCH SUPPORT WOULD CONSIST OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROMPT RECOGNITION OF AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE PROCLAIMED. EARLY IN CONVERSATION CAMARA STATED THEY WERE NOT BEGGARS, WOULD PAY FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT LATER CONFESSED THEY HAD NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO SEND ALMEIDA TO US TO CAMPAIGN AMONG AZOREAN IMMIGRANTS. CAMARA NOTED THAT EVEN IF US ASSISTANCE NOT FORTHCOMING MOVEMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE ACTION BY ITSELF AND US WOULD IN ANY CASE BE BLAMED. CONVERSATION TERMINATED WITH REPEATED REFERENCE TO DEMAND BY MANY MOVEMENT MEMBERS FOR "ACTION" AND SUGGESTS THAT CONOFFS MEET WITH LARGER GROUP OF MEMBERS.

5. COMMENT: BASED NOT ONLY ON CAMARAS REMARKS BUT ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES WE ARE NOW CONVINCED SOME SORT OF ORGANIZED GROUP EXISTS WHICH IS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION TOWARD AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE ESPECIALLY IN EVENT OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER ON CONTINENT. RECENT LEFTIST SUCCESSES APPARENTLY HAVE MADE IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE AS OPPOSED TO AUTONOMY MORE ATTRACTIVE TO INCREASING NUMBER OF AZOREANS. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT CAMARA AND ALMEIDA ARE SERIOUS IN THREAT TO COMMENCE TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST CONTINENTALS IN AZORES, PROBABLY VANDALISM AGAINST PROPERTY OF THOSE CONTINENTALS ACTIVE IN LEFTIST PARTIES. MAPA, EVEN THOUGH CAMARAS GROUP HAS NO OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH IT, IS MOST VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF AZORE AND IS SATISFACTION WITH CONTINENTAL ADMINISTRATION AND WOULD PROBABLY BE FIRST TARGET OF STRONG RETALIATORY MEASURES. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT MAP CIVIL GOVERNOR WOULD SUSPEND ORGANIZATION AND ARREST LEADERS. IT IS KNOWN THAT SOME LEFTIST ELEMENTS HERE BELIEVE OR PROFESS TO BELIEVE THAT US SUPPORTING MAPA AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT CONSULATE MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO RETALIATORY TERRORISM. LEFTIST AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY BOYCOTTED COCKTAIL PARTY GIVEN LAST WEEK BY PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND LOCAL PAPER RECEIVED
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ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTION - - NOT PUBLISHED IN ORIGINAL FORM - -
SUGGESTING THAT THEY NOT INVITED AND THAT PARTY WAS CIA
GET - TOGETHER WITH LOCAL REACTIONNARIES.

DANIELS

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